

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: HB 447

COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters

POSITION: Oppose

TITLE: HB 447 - Landfills – Disposal of Motor Vehicle Oil Filters

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would ban the disposal of motor vehicle oil filters on October 1, 2010, unless a person demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Department that the person would otherwise suffer undue economic hardship from complying with the ban.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Department opposes House Bill 447. The Department encourages recycling in general and the State as a whole has been very successful in achieving high recycling rates. At this time, 17 counties provide used oil filter recycling at their recycling centers. The used filters are recycled for their metal content. The Maryland Environmental Service implements the used oil recycling program for MDE. The Department recently asked MES to consider offering the collection of used oil filters at each of the MES maintained used oil locations across the state. Part of the used oil recycling program would include promoting the recycling of used oil filters.

Used motor vehicle oil filters are not considered hazardous waste under State or federal hazardous waste regulations. Municipal waste landfills are permitted to accept used motor vehicle oil filters in Maryland. These landfills are designed to accept a wide variety of domestic, commercial, and non-hazardous industrial solid wastes and are required to have liners and leachate collection systems installed to prevent the release of pollutants from various wastes, including used motor vehicle oil filters.

Recycling is always the preferred option. Although there are numerous locations around the state where used oil can be recycled, the Department is only aware of one commercial oil filter recycler operating in the State. Without adequate infrastructure for recycling of used oil filters, a general ban could result in illegal disposal of filters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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